

What is claimed:

1. A method for routing a call from a calling party to a called party, comprising:
  - receiving an incoming call request from the calling party;
  - determining a carrier based on the incoming call request and a set of routing instructions comprising a plurality of carriers and associated destination prefixes; and
  - 5 routing the call to the called party using the carrier.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving the incoming call request comprises receiving a telephone number to be called, and determining the carrier comprises comparing a prefix of the telephone number to the set of routing instructions.
3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining if the calling party is a  
10 subscriber prior to determining the carrier, and if so, then determining the carrier based on the incoming call request and the set of routing instructions, and otherwise determining the carrier to be a default carrier.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein determining the carrier comprises comparing a prefix of the telephone number to be called contained in the incoming call request to the set  
15 of routing instructions, and if there is a corresponding carrier corresponding to the prefix, then determining the carrier to be the corresponding carrier, and otherwise determining the carrier to be a default carrier.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving the incoming call request from the calling party comprises receiving the incoming call request at a central office.
- 20 6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising identifying the carrier to the calling party after determining the carrier.
7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving the set of routing instructions from the calling party prior to receiving the incoming call request from the calling

party.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein receiving the set of routing instructions comprises receiving a plurality of carriers with associated destination prefixes.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein receiving the set of routing instructions  
5 comprises receiving at least one of associated times of day and associated days of week.

10. A system for routing a call from a calling party to a called party using a carrier within a telecommunications network, comprising:

a central office for receiving an incoming call request comprising a destination prefix from the calling party;

10 a storage device for storing a set of routing instructions comprising a plurality of carriers and associated destination prefixes; and

a controller for determining the carrier based on the destination prefix and the set of routing instructions, and for routing the call to the called party using the carrier.

11. The system according to claim 10, further comprising a routing table comprising the set  
15 of routing instructions.

12. The system according to claim 10, wherein the set of routing instructions further comprises at least one of associated times of day and associated days of week.

13. The system according to claim 10, further comprising a device for identifying to the calling party the determined carrier.

20 14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the device is a service node.

15. The system according to claim 10, wherein the controller determines if the calling party is a subscriber prior to determining the carrier based on the destination prefix and the set of routing instructions.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein the controller determines the carrier based on the destination prefix and the set of routing instructions if the calling party is a subscriber, and otherwise determines the carrier to be a default carrier.

17. The system according to claim 10, wherein the controller compares the destination prefix  
5 of the incoming call request to the set of routing instructions, and if there is a corresponding carrier corresponding to the prefix, determining the carrier to be the corresponding carrier, and otherwise determining the carrier to be a default carrier.

18. A routing table for use in determining a carrier to be used in routing a call from a calling  
party to a called party comprising a plurality of carriers and associated destination prefixes,  
10 days of week, and times of day, wherein the routing table is accessed responsive to an incoming call request generated by the calling party to determine the carrier to be used in routing the call.